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June 2016



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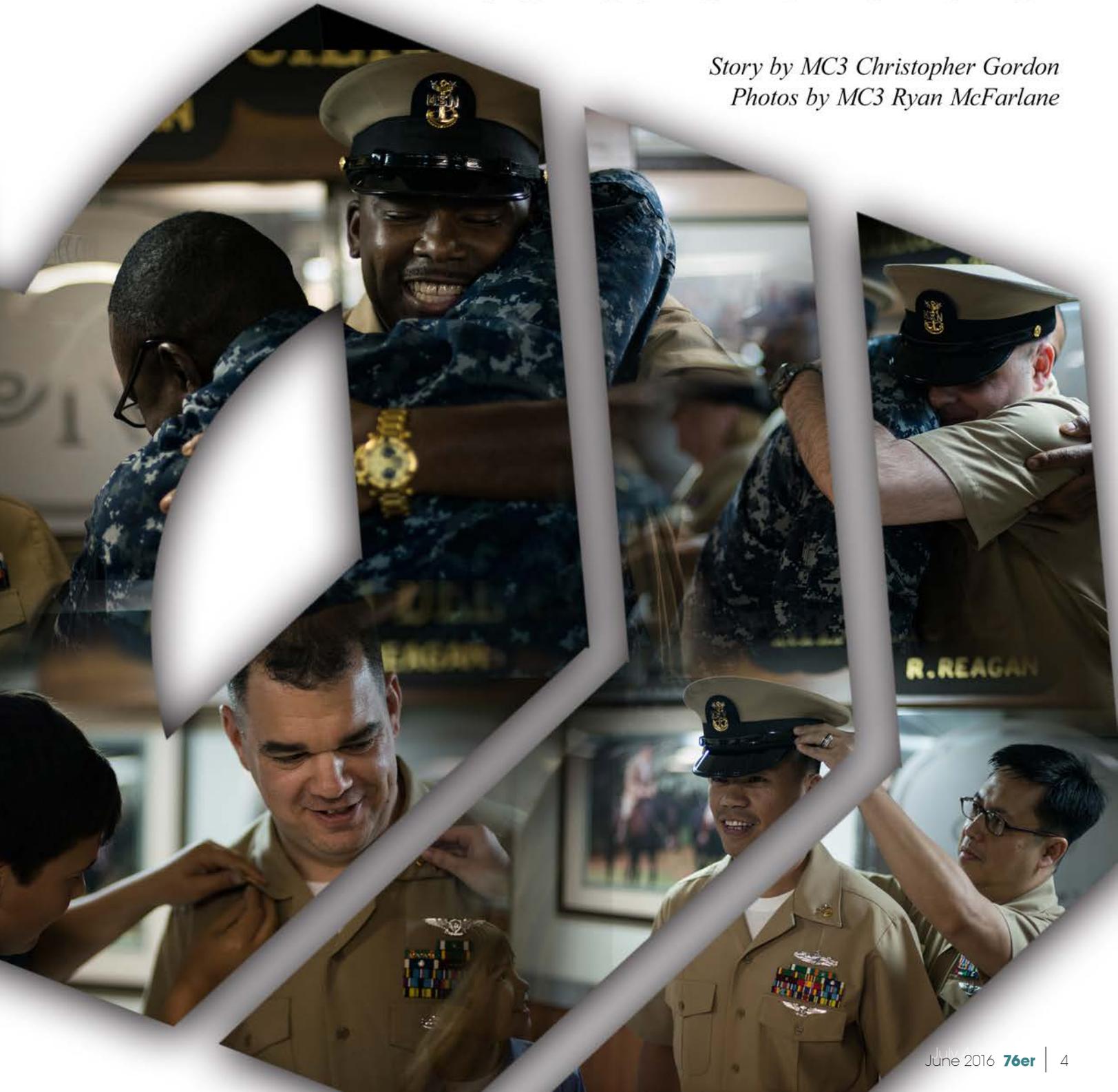
NCHO  
R. REAGA



“I can only describe it in the smile of my face and the rapid beat of my heart when someone calls me master chief.” - *AGCM James Green*

# The Path to Success

*Story by MC3 Christopher Gordon  
Photos by MC3 Ryan McFarlane*



"I remember my wife crying when I came home Friday nights after working an eight-hour day at the auto-part store, then spending six more hours in the garage making some extra cash just to cover the rent and power bills," said Master Chief Aircrew Survival Equipmentman Josh Turner, aircraft intermediate maintenance department leading chief petty officer.

Turner left the Navy in 2000, after his first enlistment aboard USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3) in Sasebo, Japan—he said civilian life looked more promising. He soon found life outside the Navy was more difficult than he thought. Turner's path to success was one of many tough roads for Reagan's six newly-pinned master chiefs.

Master Chief Electrician's Mate Ernie Piol, engineering department leading chief petty officer, said he joined the Navy while living in Guam in hope of a better life and the ability to support his family.

"Who would have thought that someone quiet, shy and who barely knew English would make it this far in the military?" said Piol. "I knew if I worked hard and became the best Sailor I could be, I would be successful—so that's what I did."

Piol said he began his career with a drive for success that carried him this far. He was always content with a place to live, money to spend and friends.

"Having curfew and restrictions and having my bedroom, living room, kitchen, and everything be a big, gray ship for those first two years was pretty painful," said Turner. "As a young Sailor, it was tough to feel the buy-in to what the command was doing and what our mission was. Being a first-term sailor on a forward deployed ship is tough."

"Here's the key thing about happiness, the root word being 'happen.' If something 'happens' that you don't like, that would—in turn—make you unhappy," said Master Chief Aerographer's Mate James Green, operations meteorology and oceanography division leading chief petty officer. "But the key is, don't base

life on happiness, because it comes and goes. Base life on joy. Has my entire naval career been a joy for me? Yes. Because I look at it as a full body of work, it's been a joy. It's been a joy to serve my country."

Seventeen percent of service members stay in for 20 years and the majority don't reenlist after their first enlistment according to city-data.com.

"Never forget where you come from. Never forget what you were, what you are and where you're headed," said Green. "If you look down at your uniform, you have two identifying marks—one over your right breast pocket that says your name, and the main one over your left breast pocket that says United States Navy. One is who you are, the other is what you are."

According to United States Code, Title 10, Section 517, only 1.25 percent of the U.S. Navy's enlisted force can be master chiefs.

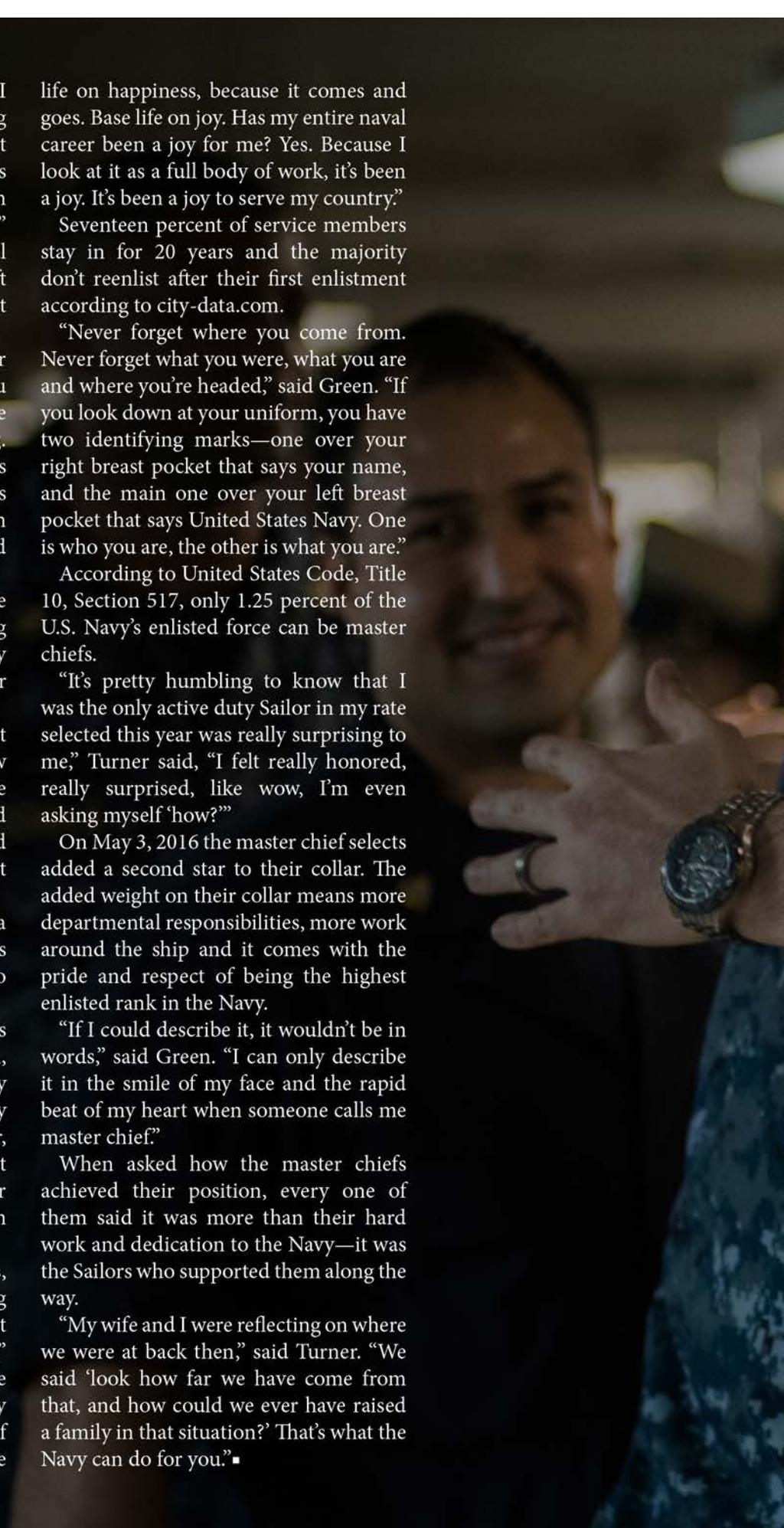
"It's pretty humbling to know that I was the only active duty Sailor in my rate selected this year was really surprising to me," Turner said, "I felt really honored, really surprised, like wow, I'm even asking myself 'how?'"

On May 3, 2016 the master chief selects added a second star to their collar. The added weight on their collar means more departmental responsibilities, more work around the ship and it comes with the pride and respect of being the highest enlisted rank in the Navy.

"If I could describe it, it wouldn't be in words," said Green. "I can only describe it in the smile of my face and the rapid beat of my heart when someone calls me master chief."

When asked how the master chiefs achieved their position, every one of them said it was more than their hard work and dedication to the Navy—it was the Sailors who supported them along the way.

"My wife and I were reflecting on where we were at back then," said Turner. "We said 'look how far we have come from that, and how could we ever have raised a family in that situation?' That's what the Navy can do for you." ■





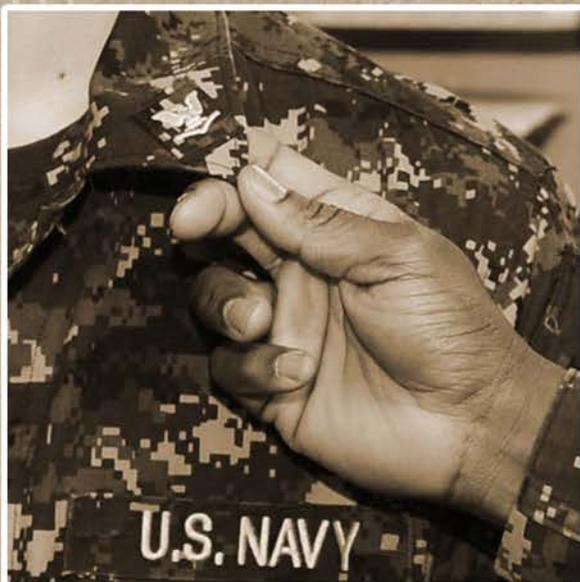
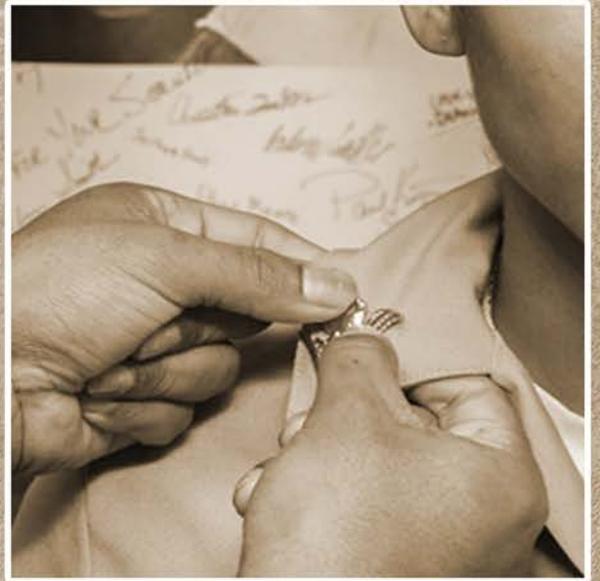
*Master Chief Electronics Technician (Nuclear)  
Anthony Burton hugs his friend after being pinned.*

# Moving On Up

*Congratulations  
to all Reagan*

*Sailors who advanced*

*to the next  
paygrade*



ABE1 Dailey, Dexter Lazed	AO3 Lewis, Tiffany Nicole	ETN2 Yamanoi, Christopher Taihei	MC3 Ku, James Che
ABE2 Armstrong, Wil Anthony Jr.	AO3 Meza, Nathanael David	FC1 Romo, Veronica Monique	MC3 Oterosantos, Eduardo Tomas
ABE2 Bulley, Ransford Nii Akwei	AT1 Lane, Justin Michael	FC2 Pearson, Corey Edward	MC3 Riggs, Matthew Scott
ABE2 Culler, Nathaniel II	AT2 Grasso, Christopher Andrew	FC2 Stevens, Travis Michael	MC3 Scudella, Charles Joseph III
ABE2 Malone, Shakoi Teron	AT3 Buckels, Lane Conner	GM3 Gross, Nicholas Edward	MM2 Bushnell, Jacob Michael
ABE2 Mathews, Geoffrey Thomas	AT3 Loucks, Blake Robert	GM3 Hyden, Dillan Gregory	MM2 Monzon, Matthew Daniel
ABE2 Perrilloux, Raven Danielle	AZ2 Danielsmartindale, Julius Ja	GM3 Perry, Austin Zachary	MM2 Morgan, Craig Kenneth II
ABE2 Reyes, Darwin	AZ3 Pannell, Evan Robert	HM3 Carlson, Derek Mitchell	MM3 Arredondo, Levi James
ABE3 Asiajuan, Jordan Alaulamaili	BM2 Woods, Shakiyah Ashley	HM3 Fair, Meghan Janel	MM3 Calise, Christopher Wayne
ABE3 Dare, Joshua Matthew	BM3 Burnside, James Ellis	HM3 Grace, Rachel Ashton	MM3 Garza, Carlos Guadalupe
ABE3 Mills, Travis Kirkpatrick	BM3 Jojola, Richard Anthony	HM3 Quattrucci, Jordan Guy	MM3 Lewis, Brandon Rashad
ABE3 Newland, Sequoia Shane	BM3 Soriente, Shairalou Araneta	HT2 Corbin, Praticia Oriel	MM3 Taylor, Zacharie Seth
ABE3 Padriago, Kristina Chariz Car	CS2 Rodil, Luveljan Veluz	HT2 Grantham, Blake Edwin	MM3 Tesfaye, Emmanuel Daniel
ABE3 Pitts, Regis Rasean	CS2 Thaxton, Nolan James	HT2 Scott, Cameron Marc	MMN1 Jones, Patricia Catherine
ABE3 Stewart, Sylvester James	CS3 Boger, Malik Edlonte	HT3 Black, Jordan David	MMN1 Mcguire, Jacob Westley
ABE3 Vasquez, Joshua Elliott	CS3 Camara, Lambert Agas	IC2 Largaespada, Tatiana Felicia	MMN2 Adkins, Talon Chay Daine
ABF1 Bianito, Laurence Deguzman	CS3 Delgado, Perlakarina	IS2 Gibbs, Briana Tiara Lashay	MMN2 Avelar, Juan Jesus
ABF3 Bennett, Dustin Lee	CS3 Hales, Nicholas James	IS2 Sachs, Steven Richard	MMN2 Bartley, Caleb James
ABF3 Howard, Christopher Lamar	CS3 Miller, Kevin Wayne Jr.	IT1 Gary, Brittany Christina	MMN2 Ferkey, Robert William
ABF3 Ndipmon, Collins Sabila	CS3 Shamblin, Justin Lee	IT2 Dalby, Donald David III	MMN2 Hulse, Joshua Marcus
ABF3 Pichler, Duane Herbert II	CS3 Shide, Vince Lee	IT2 Fitzgerald, Brianna Katherin	MMN2 Kapitany, Jozsef Mark
ABF3 Tyler, Kaleb Jarrod	CTR2 Justus, Charles Lawrence III	IT2 Gruber, Mitchell Joseph	MR3 Todd, Bailey June
ABH1 Dai, Thanh Toan	CTR2 Min, David Eunki	IT2 Mackercher, Nakina Rayanne	OS2 Ferreras, Yelissa
ABH1 Gloster, Rashad Ahmed	CTR3 Morgan, Erica Grace	IT2 Monasterio, Ferdinand Franci	OS2 Goodman, Teanna Cheri
ABH1 Martin, Mckinley Nedruda	CTT3 Calderonmeyer, Valerie Lucia	IT2 Morant, Tennyson Anthony Jr.	OS2 Isaacs, John Alfred Jr.
ABH1 Morrissey, Michael Milo	CTT3 Mercadopadilla, Maya Angela	IT3 Burtell, Matthew Thaddeus	OS2 Lo, Richard Benjamin
ABH2 Andronik, Oleksandr Oleksand	DC2 Barnes, Miranda Kay	IT3 Cliatt, Alexis Daveon	OS2 Renteria, Esmerelda Rodrigue
ABH2 Avitiapimentel, Jasmine	DC2 Gutierrez, Herbert A Jr.	IT3 Kalinec, Scott Charles	OS2 Rodriguezgomez, Cindy
ABH2 Ayeye, Oluwabusuyi E	DC3 Cox, Logan Nathaniel	IT3 Rogers, John Kyle	OS2 Turner, Meagan Corinne
ABH2 Suggs, Daniel Alexander	DC3 Ramirez, Eddie	LS2 Cuan, Jakob Zain	OS2 Williams, Christina Larue
ABH3 Blackwell, Kyesha Marie Lynn	EM2 Albarranortiz, Jose Miguel	LS2 Davis, Kadeem Hassan	OS2 Yzzi Lyle ,Lindy
ABH3 Elmore, Rakim Maurice	EM2 Chung, Brian Toan Hung	LS2 Dong, Beibei	OS3 Bordenmaxwell, Tyrone
ABH3 Fink, Nicholas Matthew	EM3 Barker, Cory Scott	LS2 Holder, Jacques Leoi	OS3 Bowen, Matthew Todd
ABH3 Mclaughlin, Samantha Ann	EMN1 Jagiello, Joseph Carl	LS2 Spracklin, Forrest Douglas	OS3 Cruz, Luis Alfredo
ABH3 Mills, Marquis Desean	EMN1 Montecinos, Kevin Tyler	LS3 Collier, Breyanna Shavon	OS3 Johnson, Ashley Seth
ABH3 Schwartz, Lyndon Josiah	EMN2 Champagne, Daniel Alan	LS3 Mills, Timothy Jerome	OS3 Kuchenmeister, Jessica Mary
ABH3 Tellez, Aurora Michelle	EMN2 Pillen, Breson Gregory	LS3 Tapiaalcaraz, Romeo	OS3 Loftus, John Dennis
ABH3 Wiggins, Jamal Marcus	EMN2 Roessler, Ian George	MA1 Kincaid, Jeffrey Blake	OS3 Melgar, Johnbenett Collado
AC2 Camacho, Marcel Antonio	EMN2 Ruiz, Isaac Alfonso	MA2 Contini, Blake Ryan	OS3 Miranda, Juan Jr.
AC2 Fitzgerald, David Edward	EMN2 Scott, Steven Jon	MA2 Leclerc, Rachel Ann	OS3 Phillips, Glenn Allen Jr.
AC2 Haddadlechuga, Luis Guillerm	EN2 Wallace, Zackary Kane	MA2 Mahon, Jessica Leigh	PR3 Vance, Daniel Stephen
AC2 Virgen, Timothy John	ET2 Klinedinst, Caitlin Marie	MA2 Sellers, Rusty Levi	PS1 Phaxayseng, David
AC3 Serranokirk, Kyndall Querida	ET2 Martinez, Diego Giovanni	MA2 Vail, John Parker	RP2 Castaneda, Kassandra Lee
AG2 Petran, James Henry	ETN1 Harper, Brandon Lafe	MA2 Williams, Ricardo John	RP3 Reyes, Markjason Villanueva
AM3 Presto, Patricia Erin	ETN1 Ortiz, Sammy Onell Jr	MA3 Dennis, Eric Lee	YN3 Belton, Kevonda Lashea
AO2 Mckinney, Antonio Tee	ETN2 Belton, Kazunari Sato	MA3 Flores, Christian Alexander	YN3 Gavilanezpastuizaca, Erick
AO3 Banke, Collin Eli Martin	ETN2 Smith, Ryan Lewis	MA3 Gomez, Robert Luz	YN3 Herbach, Jack C
AO3 Bowes, Lawson Christopher	ETN2 Thomas, Ian Joseph	MA3 Lobert, James Michael	YN3 Humphreys, Joe Kenneth Jr.
AO3 Dominguez, Felix Jeremy	ETN2 Weise, Chance Patrick	MA3 Thomas, Sloane A J	YN3 Maldonado, Jose Angel III
AO3 Dukes, Vaneeeka Ayanna	ETN2 Williams, Branden Allan Dean	MC2 Mullen, James Deondric	YN3 Pettaway, Dalvin Devonta
AO3 Foster, Stefon Marques			

ETCM Sierra



# Stories of a Master Chief



Photos by MCC Xander Gamble  
Story by MC2 Adrienne Powers





From “Navy—It’s not a job, it’s an adventure” to “America’s Navy,” there has been one consistency over the last 30 years. Even that consistency has come to an end.

Retired Master Chief Electronics Technician Jose Sierra enlisted under then-President Ronald Reagan and retired after serving on board USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76).

“Ronald Reagan is probably one of my favorite presidents,” he said.

In 1990, Sierra started his Navy adventure aboard USS Saratoga (CV 60) in support of Operation Desert Storm from the Persian Gulf. He said he will never forget the night of December 20 when Saratoga anchored off the coast of Haifa, Israel for his second port visit.

“There are a lot of stories I can tell, but this one will always stick in my head,” he said.

Sierra was woken up at midnight on board the ship and told to turn on his equipment—he was an air traffic controlman at the time. A liberty boat had capsized. Twenty one Sailors drowned.

“I knew three of the Sailors who were in my division and they are still very dear to my heart,” said Sierra. “To this day, I remember them and try to honor them anyway I can.”

Saratoga was decommissioned in 1994, but the 21 Sailors are memorialized in Mayport, Florida—a place Sierra visited years later to pay his respects.

Sierra reported to his next duty station as a second class petty officer working in the White House with men and women from all branches of the armed forces.

“I met the President once,” said Sierra.

“At the end of my tour, I had my picture taken with President Bill Clinton in the Oval Office.”

Sierra said the highlight of his career was “working with the people in the White House—they are the best the armed forces have to offer. My view of the Navy at that time was a Sailor only saw their chief because they were in trouble. When I got to the White House, I really took a lot from the leadership style of the Army and Air Force noncommissioned officers and tried to bring that back with me to the Navy.”

Sierra left the White House as a chief petty officer and used this new leadership in duty stations around the world, including his native land. Before moving to the continental United States and enlisting, Sierra spent the first 24 years of his life growing up in an area influenced heavily by music and dance.

“Being from Puerto Rico, it’s what we do,” he said. “There’s a party every weekend and dancing everywhere.”

Salsa dancing became a source of comfort for Sierra when he was far from home. He became depressed as he left his family behind his first time in Japan. Returning to his roots helped him get through challenging times.

“I got into salsa dancing to the point that it became my therapy,” he said.

Sierra plans to continue salsa dancing since retiring, including traveling to salsa festivals around the world.

“It’s something I really enjoy—it keeps you young,” he said. “Even before when I was in a foreign country and heard salsa music, I felt that ache inside. That’s what I do in my free time now—I go salsa dancing.” ■





# THROUGH



# THE LENS





# RUNNING KING

Story by MC3 Cody Hendrix

It's 4 o'clock in the morning. He rolls out of bed, chugs some water and laces up his running shoes before stepping out the door. It's still dark as he mentally prepares for the day.

Forty-four miles. The distance he will cover today - on foot. This is a race, and he is ready to compete.

As he drives to the start, he sees the path ahead. Mount Fuji towers before him, its steep curves glaring at him menacingly. He can see the humidity in the air, but he is ready.

Chief Interior Communications Electrician Christopher King, Ronald Reagan's combat systems interior communications leading chief petty officer, from Kendall, New York, runs ultra marathons in his spare time.

"I just run," said King. "I lace up after work, regardless of the day, and I put in miles. Some days I'll put in three to five miles, other days I'll put in 20. I just run."

A marathon is 26.2 miles, or about 33,000 steps, and is considered by athletes like Jason Fitzgerald, who ran a marathon in 2 hours, 39 minutes—one of the most physically exhausting tasks the human body can undertake. Any further is considered an ultra marathon.

"It's different when you do it competitively," said King. "Diet is huge and training is relentless. A lot of people will call you crazy, but I find it calming. One of my favorite quotes is from poet John Dryden and goes, 'There is a pleasure, sure, in being mad, which none but mad men know.'"

King runs various races, including

mud runs, Spartan races, marathons and ultra marathons.

"If it has a medal and a t-shirt, I usually sign up for it, regardless of distance," said King.

King says the races are arduous events. His personal record for the half-marathon is 1 hour, 41 minutes and his marathon record is 4 hours, 5 minutes.

"I don't do races for time," said King. "I just look for the victory in finishing. I've done events that were meant to be 8-10 hours long and wound up to be 14-16 hours. You have to train your mind to think a different way."

Training is a major key to success, according to King. He runs 20 to 30 hours on a weekly basis.

"It's time consuming," said King. "You have to have mental toughness. Running on days you're not feeling 100% is going to happen. You have to train, because on race day, you want to have a strong finish and a solid performance overall. If you're dedicated to your art, or whatever you're passionate about, you're going to give it your all. You'll find time to make it happen instead of making excuses."

According to CNN, the oldest person to ever complete a marathon was a 100-year old man named Fauja Singh. King said he believes anyone can complete an ultra marathon with proper training.

"Last year I used to 'sweep course', or bring in the last runner," said King. "I ran into a woman that had been out on the course for almost seven hours on a 10-mile course. She was getting to the point of muscle fatigue and failure where she

could not properly perform a burpee, but she refused to give up. Those types of people that have that mental fortitude are the ones that inspire me to be more."

According to ESPN, a Belgian runner named Stefaan Engels ran a marathon every single day in 2011, totaling 9,570 miles.

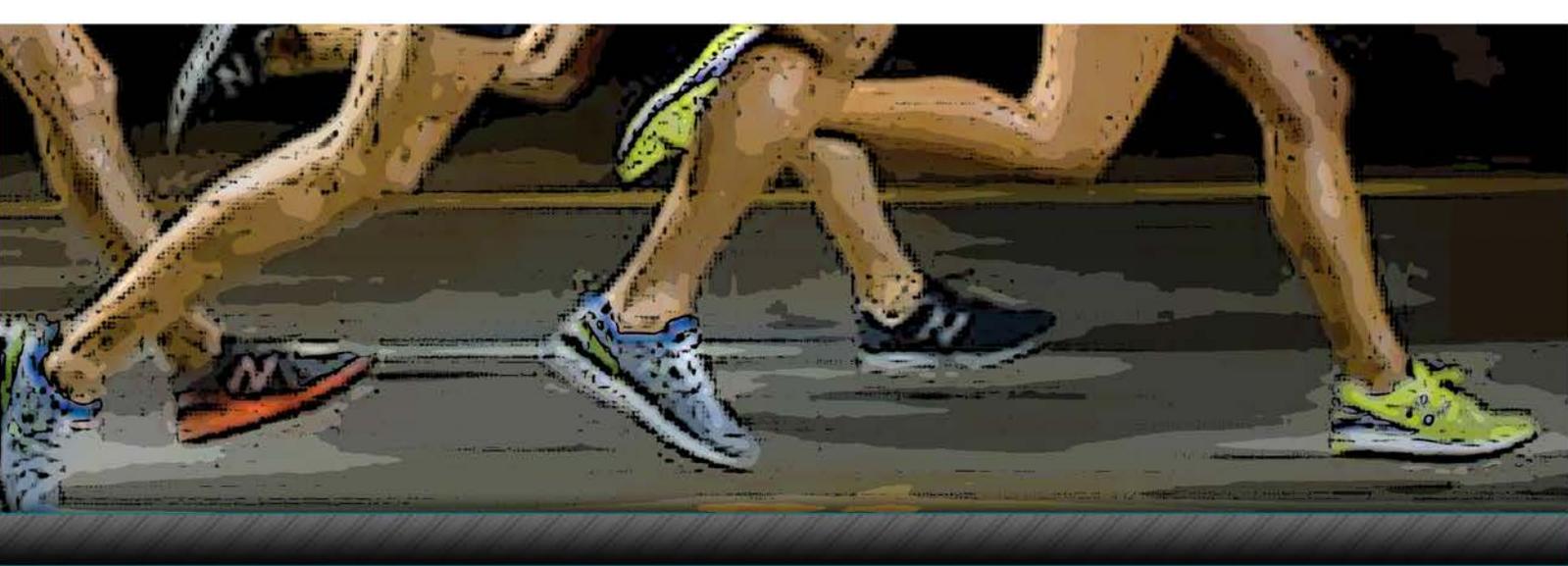
"Just try everyday," said King. "It doesn't have to be a killer workout, it just has to be a victory. Every small victory builds up to the bigger ones. We want everything done now and don't have patience. You're not just going to walk out and run your first ultra and that's it. You have to start somewhere."

King said failure is one of the greatest tools in learning. He wants his Sailors, and anybody who is trying to pursue a healthier lifestyle to make an attempt to better themselves.

"You don't have to get the trophy every time. You don't even have to finish. That's what makes these races so exciting," said King. "That's what makes the victory so much sweeter. I did something that I never thought I could do, and I proved myself wrong. With dedication and proper training, you can do anything."

King said his mission is not over after the marathon. He takes the experience back to Reagan to relay the wisdom to his Sailors.

"At the end of the day, you need to ask what you're doing for yourself," said King. "What's our end goal? There's going to be a life after the Navy. There's going to be a life after all of this. You just need to prepare for the long distance." ■





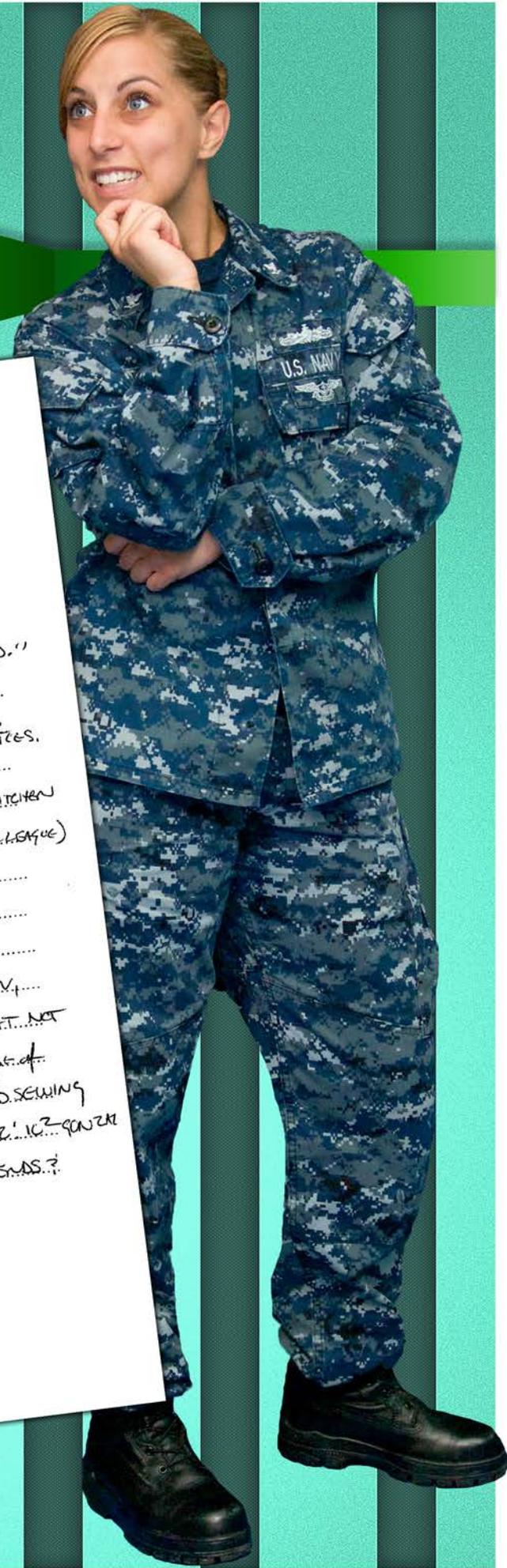
# I N S U R V





# V-2

## Sailor Spotlight



### SAILOR SPOTLIGHT: getting to know

name: MEAGHAN FRANCES rate/rank: IC3 IE-4

department: AIR DEPARTMENT division: V-2

daily grind: MY DAYS ARE NOT PREDICTABLE ENOUGH FOR A "GRIND."

hometown: JOHNSBURG, ILLINOIS

inspiration: MY GRANDMA - SHE STRUCK OUT ON HER OWN TO MAKE HER OWN LIFE, AND OUR LIVES ARE BETTER BECAUSE OF HER CHOICES.

soundtrack (song): "TEAM" BY LORDE

that special place: HAVING COFFEE WITH MY GRANDPARENTS AT THEIR KITCHEN TABLE.

sports team: THE CHICAGO CUBS (MY GRANDPA RAN FOR THEIR MINOR LEAGUE)

movie: SPACE BILLS!

food: U.M.M. . . ALL OF IT, PLEASE!

can't live without: MY FAMILY

proudest moment: JANUARY 16th 2014, THE DAY MY NEPHEW, FINN, WAS BORN.

dream job: I CAN'T IMAGINE BEING MY DREAM JOB? WHY IS THAT NOT A CAREER PATH ANYMORE??

best age, why: 25 - IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT YEAR AND BECAUSE OF THE STRUGGLES & CHALLENGES I AM A STRONGER PERSON.

hobby: RUNNING, READING, WRITING, COOKING, BAKING AND SEWING

mentor: PERSQUIT MOWER HANDS DOWN, MY DAD - SHIP MENTOR IC2 SCOTCH SHE'S WONDERFUL!

the perfect day: ANY DAY THAT IS SPENT WITH MY FRIENDS & FAMILY.

# WARRIOR ETHOS

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

CVN 76



“When you want to succeed  
as bad you want to breathe,  
then you’ll be successful.”

- Eric Thomas



USS RONALD REAGAN

SAILORS HELPING SAILORS. ONE TEAM. ONE FIGHT.